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Information Unit Accused Of Trying 'Power Grab'

By the Associated Press

Representative Moss, Democrat of California, said today the partial unveiling of a secret order shows the Office of Strategic Information "planned to go far beyond its authority" and restrict the flow of information from Federal agencies.

Mr. Moss, chairman of a House Government Operations subcommittee seeking release of more Government information, accused the OSI of an "attempted power grab" as he made public part of a secret directive.

The order by the National Security Council, the Government's top strategy group, dealt with internal security matters. Part of the directive ordered the Commerce Department to set up the OSI.

OSI has been accused of trying to censor non-secret information. Its officials have denied censorship, saying their job is to help keep important data from going to the Communists.

Mr. Moss announced the Security Council has agreed to remove the secrecy wraps from that part of its directive setting up the OSI.

The Congressman reported the directive told OSI merely to provide "guidance" to other Federal agencies on the withholding of non-secret information of possible strategic value.

But a Commerce Department order issued last August 23, Mr.

Moss said, directs OSI to create a committee for "establishing policy" for executive agencies on publication of non-secret information.

Mr. Moss added in a statement:

"A careful comparison of the declassified section of the directive . . . and the Commerce order putting OSI into operation shows the OSI planned to go far beyond its authority and try to restrict the flow of information from the Federal Government.

"This is another example of an attempted power grab by an agency whose authority is based on a hush-hush directive which it refuses to discuss . . ."

Mr. Moss said conferences with OSI Chief Seago now indicate the agency is planning a program more in line with the Security Council directive.

He said the House Investigators are reviewing OSI's progress reports in preparation for another hearing June 8.

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